



# COVID-19 and the Courts

## An update from Chief Justice Minton

### Update for March 10, 2020

Justices, Judges, Circuit Court Clerks and Kentucky Court of Justice Personnel:

### Kentucky Personnel Cabinet provides protocols for state employees

The Kentucky Personnel Cabinet shared new protocols today to help control the spread of COVID-19 among state employees. After reviewing the protocols, we determined that they should extend to Kentucky Court of Justice employees.

These protocols include the following:

- Employees who exhibit fever, cough or shortness of breath or who may have been exposed to COVID-19 are eligible to receive up to 10 days of paid emergency sick leave. Once those days have been exhausted, normal leave provisions of the Kentucky Court of Justice Personnel Policies will apply.
- Employees diagnosed and laboratory-confirmed with COVID-19 will be required to submit two negative lab tests taken 24 hours apart before returning to work.
- Employees exhibiting symptoms who may have been exposed or meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's definition of high risk may be permitted to telecommute provided that their job duties may be successfully performed remotely and they have received prior authorization from their manager or appointing authority.
- The Personnel Cabinet answers common questions in State Employees FAQs.

### Pandemic Response Plan

We are currently supplementing our Emergency Management Plan with a detailed Pandemic Response Plan, which will include a Continuity of Operations Plan template. We will be sharing those documents with you as soon as possible.

### Resources

Below are links to several resources you might find helpful:

- [Stop the Spread of Germs at Work](#)
- Kentucky Department for Public Health website: [COVID-19](#)
- Kentucky Court of Justice website: [COVID-19 and the Courts](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

We appreciate everyone's calm, measured approach to this challenging situation. If you have questions about the personnel protocols, please contact the AOC's Department of Human Resources at [COJHR2@kycourts.net](mailto:COJHR2@kycourts.net).

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